'Say It with Flowers' Issue Provokes Spirited Comment

'No Flowers' Trend Grows

The question of whether friends and relatives should "say it with flowers" at funerals despite the wishes of the immediate family, aroused some spirited comment here yesterday.

Controversy began this week with a claim by Alberta florists that they are being discriminated against by obituary announcements which ask that no flowers be sent to funerals.

IT'S NOT FAIR

"It's not fair to discourage donors from giving flowers," said Irving Allen, Alberta director of the Florist Telegraph Delivery Association.

He regretted that "there is a trend by some people to break away from sentiment in search of a more practical approach."

Local florists confirmed yesterday that there is a growing trend toward "no flowers by request," and notices which urge that the money be given to charity instead.

FLORISTS COMMENT

Comments from Victoria florists and funeral directors included the following:

"There's too much of this 'give it to charity'."

"You might as well say: "No coffins by 'request'."

"The Alberta florists are absolutely right."

"Flowers always arrive at funerals, anyway—no one pays any attention to the notices."

"If people want to send cabbages, it's their right."

Three local florists declined having their names used because they didn't want to be involved in controversy or be associated with the "bad taste" of the Alberta florists.

Others felt differently, however.

"I'm all for their (Alberta florists') stand," said Jan Hennekes, owner of Sweetheart Florists, 1801 Fort.

"We've got the same deal here . . . and there's too much of this give it to charity."

TALK THEM INTO IT

He said the way to combat the "no-flowers" tendency was for all the florists and funeral men to get together "and talk people into using flowers."

"The situation has definitely become bad," said Mrs. Norma Fitzsimmons, proprietor of Island Florist.

"We florists are quite worried and are wondering what we can do to combat it."

"The flowers come anyway," she said. "Friends and relatives wire them from out of town."

MAKES THEM RESENTFUL

Not being able to send flowers stops people from expressing their sympathy and makes them resentful, Mrs. Fitzsimmons added.

Reginald Hayward of Hayward's funeral home is in favor of flowers at funerals, "but the wishes of the immediate family is what determines things for us.

"It's pretty nice to have flowers as an expression of sympathy," he said.

"Everyone's got to earn a living . . . some people might as well say 'no coffins, please'."

NOT TOO MUCH

Joseph Chaplin of Chaplin's funeral home said "florists haven't got too much to complain about.

"You run your business or your business runs you," he said. "There are too many do-gooders around trying to run other people's businesses."

Mr. Chaplin said it is "not uncommon" for there to be $400 or $500 worth of flowers at a funeral—"and that's a pretty good profit for the florists, isn't it?

"But at the next one there might be no flowers," he added.

IT'S THEIR RIGHT

Graham McCall of McCall Bros., "The Floral Funeral Chapel," said "if people want to send cabbages, it's their right.

"The florists are naturally concerned—there has been a tremendous growth in this thing . . . the florist has got to live."

The funeral director said one of the largest florists in town has let two or three people go because of this trend.

"How many people send money to charity when they're told they can't send flowers?" he asked.

"I'll tell, because our company has tested this — one out of 10."

Goggle-eyed with wonder over fascinating "pearl" lizard at new Duncan reptile zoo is Valentyn De Leeuw, 10, son of half-owner Adrianus De Leeuw. Zoo, only one in Western Canada and loaded with rare reptiles, is three miles south of Duncan on Glenora Road. Other owner, also a Dutch immigrant, is Jack Oyen.—(Colonist photo)

Student Actors Crowned As Drama Festival Ends

Three new best actresses and a similar number of actors were crowned last night following the honor performance of the 19th annual Schools' Drama Festival.

They were Helen Marmo, Pat Conrad and Wendy Glover on the girls' side with Jim Cosh, Michael Woods and David Maltby among the boys.

In the elementary division all three of the leading actresses, as well as the winning actor, played in Oaklands School's "Beauty and the Beast."

Apart from being among the top six plays of the 29 performed, "Beauty and the Beast" was described by adjudicator, Miss Anne Mossman, as "children's theatre at its best."

The two runners-up in the elementary actors' classification, Bill Goff and Brian Rowbottom, are both from Glanford School.

In the junior division, Central provided the best actress, Pat Conrad, and runner-up, Violet Cresner. The other four junior awards were evenly divided between Belmont, Mount Newton, Glenlyon and S. J. Willis.

Belmont also scored twice among the seniors with best actor, Jim Cosh, and runner-up actress, Gina Hiscock. The remaining awards in this division went to Oak Bay High, Mount Douglas, North Saanich and Mount View.

The Honor performance took place at Oak Bay Junior High School last night. The plays selected were Central's very lovely "Romance of the Willow Pattern," North Saanich High School's tender "The Barretts of Wimpole Street," and Oak Bay High's hilarious "The Fish."

Folowing these most enjoyable performances and remarks by the adjudicator, Miss Anne Mossman, the awards were presented. Deputy Education Minister J. F. K. English gave the awards and certificates of merit in the senior division.

Director of Community Programs, L. H. Panton, gave the certificates in the junior class and school trustee Kenneth Leeming, in the elementary division.

Chairman was Alan E. Jones.

The ful list of awards and special mentions follows:

Best senior actress: Helen Marmo for her Rosemary Fell in Oak Bay High School's "A Cup of Tea." Runners-up: Gina Hiscock for her Chloe in Belmont Senior High's "The Ass and the Philosophers" and Roberta Close for her Mrs. Lester in Mount Douglas High's "Thank You, Doctor."

Best senior actor: Jim Cosh for his Didymus Hippocrates in Belmont Senior High's "The Ass and the Philosophers," Runners-up: Wallace du Temple for his Charles Barrett in North Saanich High's "The Barretts of Wimpole Street" and Larry Brooks for his Robert in Mount View's "The Crimson Coconut."

Best junior actress and winner of the Colonist Prize: Pat Conrad for her Koong-See in Central's "Romance of the Willow Pattern." Runners-up: Margaret Raymond for her Infanta in Belmont Junior High's "The Birthday of the Infanta" and Violet Cresner for her Celestina Garcia in Central's "Sunday Costs Five Pesos."

Best junior actor and winner of the Colonist Prize: Michael Woods for his Pedlar in Mount Newton Junior High's "The Farce of the Devil's Bridge." Runners-up: Dougal Fraser for his Jovan III in Glenlyon's "The Moving Finger" and Ronnie Hatch for his Sorcerer in S. J. Willis' "The Mystery of the Ming Tree."

Best Elementary actress: Wendy Glover for her "Beauty" in Oaklands school's "Beauty and the Beast." Runners-up: Lorna Stirling for her Jonquiline and Susan Evans for her Jessamine in "Beauty and the Beast."

Best Elementary actor: David Maltby for his Beast in Oaklands School's "Beauty and the Beast." Runners-up: Bill Goff for his Murillo and Brian Rowbottom for his Sebastian in Glanford school's "The Day is Bright."

Special Mention for teamwork: The cast of Victoria High School's "Stew for Simon," Bill Hubbard, Penny Tisdall, Sylvia Mobey, Sharon June and Maureen Tilson.

Special Mention in Senior Division: Jeannie Belcher for her Ophelia in St. Margaret's school scenes from "Hamlet." Gordon Shrimpton for his Denny Cort in Mount Douglas high's "Thank You, Doctor," and David Laundy for his Yves Cabrol in Oak Bay high's "The Fish."

Special Mention, Junior: Linda Parfitt for her prologue in S. J. Willis' "The Mystery of the Ming Tree," Heather McPherson for her Little Old Man in Oak Bay junior's "Paddly Pools." Mike Hutchison for his Grandpa in the same play, Joe Milligan for his Father Kado in Mount Newton's "The Farce of the Devil's Bridge," and Michael Martin for his Tony Sims in Lansdowne's "Three Pills in a Bottle."

Special Mention in Elementary Division: Lawrence Alder for his Mikey in Oaklands school's "Beauty and the Beast," and Russell Lamb for his King in Gordon Head's "The Ugly Duckling."

'Phobia' Splits Decision

Central Saanich council ran head-on into its civil defence phobia, when it received from the provincial authorities a request that it make known the amount it might spend on civil defence during the coming year, in order that matching funds might be made available.

"This doesn't mean we have to spend a cent," said Coun. Ray Lamont, suggesting that the provincial and federal governments be asked to match a possible $100 expenditure by the municipality.

"It just means that if we decide to spend anything up to $100 under the civil defence program—and it could be for something of benefit to the municipality — three-quarters of the cost would be met by the two governments," he said.

Reeve H. R. Brown broke a 3-3 voting deadlock and the motion passed.

The University of Alberta was established in 1905, and the University of Saskatchewan in 1907.

In Memoriam

"Individual Freedom." Beloved Spouse of B.C. Govt. Employees' Association for many years, passed away 13th March, 1959, of a malignancy called "Unionism."

Pallbearers as usual, Messrs. Greed, Lust, Envy, Jealousy and Gossip.

Interment immediately behind the Iron Curtain where no "Individual Freedom" exists.

Deeply mourned by all people alive and dead who dearly loved Her and fought and died for Her through the ages.

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